



Press Release

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France-Israel space cooperation France-Israel Season 2018 CNES at the symposium on 'The challenges of the new economy'

To mark the 70th anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel and the *israel@lights* exhibition retracing its rich contribution to innovation serving progress, the Israeli Embassy in France, in partnership with the France-Israel Chamber of Commerce (CCFI) and Israel Valley, is putting on a series of conferences on the theme of 'Israel on the cusp of the fourth industrial revolution'. As guest of honour invited by Aliza Bin-Noun, Israel's Ambassador to France, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall spoke at the symposium on Wednesday 6 June on 'The challenges of the new economy'.

In his address, Jean-Yves Le Gall recalled that CNES and the Israel Space Agency (ISA) have forged longstanding and successful ties in space, illustrated by the VEN μ S mission (Vegetation and Environment monitoring on a New Micro Satellite) orbited last August atop a Vega launcher from the Guiana Space Centre. VEN μ S is a vegetation-monitoring satellite at the cutting edge of innovation that is already making a major contribution to environmental research, while also pursuing the technological objective of flight-qualifying the Israeli Hall Effect Thruster (IHET) system. The satellite's ability to acquire imagery frequently and in rich spectral detail at high spatial resolution is a world first that will enable scientists to better understand and model changes in land surfaces induced by climate and human factors.

CNES's President also outlined efforts being pursued to tackle climate change, notably through the creation of the Space Climate Observatory (SCO), one of the 12 commitments made at the One Planet Summit organized at the initiative of President Emmanuel Macron on 12 December in Paris. This year will be devoted to defining possible partner contributions to the SCO, which aims to pool climate data acquired from space and make them readily available to the world's scientific community. In this respect, VEN μ S is expected to contribute to the SCO by advancing our understanding of climate change and its impacts.

On the sidelines of the symposium, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "France-Israel Season 2018, with which CNES is closely involved, is a fantastic opportunity to raise the profile of what we are doing in the space sector which, more than ever before, is stimulating keen interest around the world. I am delighted to see that, encouraged by the success of VEN μ S, we are now looking to develop a new joint cloud-monitoring mission with Israel that will further our contribution to tackling climate change, which truly is one of the main challenges facing us in the decades ahead."

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